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- (54) TITLE OF THE INVENTION
 PLANE-FORM ILLUMINATION INSTRUMENT
 [Menjo shomei kigu]
- (71) Assignee
 Matsushita Denko Kabushiki Kaisha [Japanese Company or corporation]
 1048-banchi, Kadoma, Oaza, Kadoma-shi, Osaka-fu
- (72) Inventor Tadashi MURAKAMI c/o Matsushita Denko Kabushiki Kaisha 1048-banchi, Kadoma, Oaza, Kadoma-shi, Osaka-fu

- (72) Inventor
 Toshihiko SAKAGUCHI
 Same as the above
- (72) Inventor
 Tadahiro OTSUKA
 Same as the above
- (74) Agent Chohichi ISHIDA, patent agent

[Amendments: There are no amendments attached to this patent. Translator's note]

[Note: All names, addresses, company names, and brand names are translated in the most common manner. Japanese language does not have singular or plural words unless otherwise specified with numeral prefix or general form of plurality suffix. The page numbers applied to the original document begins with page 5 rather than page 1. Translator's note]

SPECIFICATION

1. TITLE OF THE INVENTION Plane-form illumination instrument

2. CLAIMS

(1) A plane-form illumination instrument is characterized by the fact that is equipped with a lamp that becomes a light source; and a light guide that is formed of a transparent material in a plate form, and radiated lights of the lamp are introduced from a plane other than front/back, and one plane of front/back becomes light discharging plane [note: the original document literally states light guide exit plane, and it is translated as light discharging plane hereafter, translator's note], and at the same time, the plane that is at opposite side to the light discharging plane becomes light diffusion plane; and the light discharging plane of the light guide is formed smoothly and is set to totally reflect all luminous flux of the radiated lights of the lamp that is not reflected at the light diffusion plane; and multiple numbers of reflective parts that conduct diffusion reflection are formed on the light diffusion plane; and it is set so the distribution density of reflective parts to become low when synthesized distribution intensity of the lights directly from the lamp and totally reflected lights on the light discharging plane on the light diffusion plane becomes higher.

3. DETAILED EXPLANATION OF THIS INVENTION [TECHNICAL FIELDS]

This invention relates to a plane-form illumination instrument that is used as a back light and the like of light panel or liquid crystal display device of which light emitting plane is required to show an almost uniform luminance.

[BACKGROUND TECHNOLOGIES]

According to this type of plane-form illumination instrument, it generally has a light guide of plate form, and radiated lights of a lamp are guided from the plane other than front/back of the light guide to be taken out from a light discharging plane that is one plane of either front or back plane. However, when lamp and light guide are combined simply, the luminance at nearby lamp remains the highest, and luminance declines quickly as it moves away from the lamp; and therefore, it presents a problem of not possible to obtain a uniform luminance on a light discharging plane. And therefore, following two countermeasures have been proposed generally as methods of dealing with this problem:

That is to say, the first countermeasure is to place a filter (7) at contraposition to the light discharging plane (21) as illustrated in the Figure 6 (a). This filter (7) is set to reduce transmissivity (shown with dotted line) as distance to the lamp (1) is closer as illustrated in the Figure 6 (b), and it intends to obtain an overall uniform luminance by reducing transmissivity with higher luminance (shown with solid line). However, according to this countermeasure, because uniformity of luminance is attempted by reduction of lights at the portion showing a high luminance, problem of low utilization efficiency of the radiated lights of the lamp (1) occurs.

And therefore, the second countermeasure that is illustrated in the Figure 7 (a) is designed to vary diffusion reflectivity on the light diffusion plane that is the plane opposite side to the light discharging plane (21) of the light guide (2) by locations. That is to say, at the portion that is near the lamp (1), diffusion reflectivity is set to be small, and diffusion reflectivity to be large as it further moves away from the lamp (1). More specifically, multiple numbers of reflective parts (23) (diagonal line parts in the Figure 7 (a)) of dot form are formed on the light diffusion plane of the light guide (2), and as illustrated in the Figure 7 (b), it is designed so the distribution density of the reflective parts (23) becomes higher as it moves away from the lamp (1); and the portion without reflective parts (23) may be subjected to an absorption treatment by forming a concave/convex plane or by coating a material with different refractive index. According to this structure, when distance from the lamp (1) happens to become about 5 times of the plate thickness of the light guide (2), difference in distribution density at the reflective parts (23) of the portion that is nearby lamp (1) and away from the lamp (1) becomes large, and distribution density of reflective parts (23) at nearby lamp (1) becomes very small to present a problem of occurrence of uneven luminance; and in an extreme case, the portion showing high luminance appears in a shape of star. phenomenon is more prominent when the plate thickness of the light guide (2) is smaller.

[PURPOSE OF THIS INVENTION]

This invention was conducted based on above-explained points, and its purpose is to offer a plane-form illumination instrument of which luminance on a light emitting plane is sufficiently made as uniform.

[DISCLOSURE OF THIS INVENTION] (CONSTITUTION)

The plane-form illumination instrument that relates to this invention is equipped with a lamp that becomes a light source; and a light guide that is formed in a plate-form of a transparent material, and radiated lights of the lamp are introduced from a plane other than the front/back, and one plane of either front/back becomes a light discharging plane, and at the same time, plane that is opposite side to the light discharging plane becomes light diffusion plane; and the light discharging plane of the light guide is formed smoothly, and is designed to totally reflect all luminous flux of radiated lights of the lamp that is not reflected at light diffusion plane; and on the light diffusion plane, multiple numbers of reflective parts that carries out diffusion reflection are formed; and distribution density at the reflective parts is set to be low when synthesized distribution intensity of the lights directly from the lamp and total reflected lights at the light discharging plane on the light diffusion plane becomes higher; and light discharging plane is formed to totally reflect the lights directly from the lamp, and at the same time, luminance on light emitting plane after reflected at the light diffusion plane is made to be almost uniform by setting the distribution density of reflective parts on the light diffusion plane to be counter-proportional to the intensity of lights on the light diffusion plane.

(EXAMPLE)

As illustrated in the Figure 1, a lamp (1) that becomes a light source and linear-form light guide (2) are contained within a box (10). Regarding the lamp (1), a straight tubular-form fluorescent lamp is used; and it is arranged opposite to one side plane of the light guide (2). The light guide (2) is formed of a transparent material such as glass or acryl and the like; and one plane of front/back (top plane shown in the Figure 1 (b)) becomes light discharging plane (21) while the other plane becomes light diffusion plane (22). The light discharging plane (21) is of a smooth convex curved plane; and it is set so the distance with the light diffusion plane (22) becomes the greatest at its middle part, and distance with the light diffusion plane (22) would be the minimum at the position that is furthest away from the lamp (1). On the one hand, the light diffusion plane (22) has multiple numbers of reflective parts (23) that are almost in parallel to the longitudinal direction of the lamp (1) as illustrated in the Figure 2; and each reflective parts (23) are formed as closely adhered to the light diffusion plane (22) to carry out diffusion reflection through printing and the like. In addition, a plane-form transmitting part (24) is formed between adjacent reflective parts (23). At this time, as illustrated in the Figure 2 (b), distribution density of the reflective parts (23) varies in accordance with the distance from the lamp (1); and a region where distribution density becomes the maximum is present at the middle part from the lamp (1) to the farthest position; and other portion is designed to show increase in monotonous manner.

The positional relationship of the lamp (1) and the light guide (2) is set in such manner so, of the radiated lights of lamp (1), the luminous flux that is introduced to the light guide (2) and is not reflected at the light diffusion plane (22) is all and totally reflected; and it is designed that the radiated lights from the lamp (1) cannot be taken out from the light discharging plane (21) unless otherwise are reflected at the light diffusion plane (22) for at the least 1 time.

At the position that is a one plane of the box (10) and is opposite to the light discharging plane (21) of the light guide (2), a diffusion plate (3) that carries out diffusion transmission and diffusion reflection is arranged; and on the one hand, the plane that is the inner circumference plane of the box (10) and is opposite to the light diffusion plane (22) becomes reflective plane (4). Although diffusion plate (3) is arranged as spaced from the light guide (2), it may be also arranged in closely adhered manner. The reflective plane (4) is a positive [correct or actual] reflective plane of metal plane, or diffusion reflective plane by coating and the like; and of the light diffusion plane (22) of the light guide (2), it is designed to reflect luminous flux that pass through the transmitting part (24).

Based on above-explained structure, part of the luminous flux that is radiated from the lamp (1) is totally reflected at the light discharging plane (21) and is guided to the region that is away from the lamp (1); and in addition, because distribution density of transmitting part (24) is high on the light diffusion plane (22) at nearby lamp (1), radiated lights from the lamp (1) are guided to the region away from the lamp (1) including total reflection at this transmitting part (24). Incidentally, when radiated lights from the lamp (1) are considered, as illustrated in the Figure 3 (a), because distribution of luminous flux that directly irradiates light diffusion plane (22) from the lamp (1) is counter-proportional by square root of the distance, it would mean a monotonous decrease as illustrated in the Figure 3 (b). In addition, as illustrated in the Figure 4 (a), distribution of luminous flux that is totally reflected on the light discharging plane (21) from the lamp (1) and reaches light diffusion plane (22) shows rise at the region that is away be prescribed distance from the lamp (1) as illustrated in the Figure 4 (b), and then, it shows gradual decrease hereafter. And therefore, as illustrated in the Figure 5, intensity distribution of the light at the light diffusion plane (22) show such trend of gradual decrease to reach the minimum once, and then, becomes the maximum, and then again, shows reduction. As explained above, because it is set so the distribution density of reflective parts (23) on the light diffusion plane (22) shows gradual increase reaching the maximum and the minimum from the end part of lamp (1) side of the light guide (2), and then, shows increase again. when this distribution is set so it would be in a reverse proportional relationship with intensity of lights on the light diffusion plane (22), luminance distribution on the light discharging plane (21) becomes almost uniform.

Furthermore, according to this example, with presence of diffusion plate (3) and reflective plane (4), lights at the region that corresponds to transmitting part (24) on the light diffusion plane (22) can be reflected at the reflective plane (4) to be utilizes; and it provides higher utilization efficiency of the lights.

As explained above, it shows a beneficial point that it is possible to set overall luminance distribution as uniform by changing the distribution density of reflective parts (23) formed on the light guide (2). In addition, it also shows a beneficial point that because uneven luminance caused by the presence of reflective parts (23) and transmitting part (24) is relaxed by sandwiching the light guide (2) between diffusion plate (3) and reflective plane (4), it shows high effect of uniform luminance; and pattern of the reflective parts (23) is not noticeable even when it is made as a thin type, and above all, lights that are directly from the lamp (1) are all designed as being reflected at the light discharging plane, it is possible to allow radiated lights from the lamp (1) to reach the region away from the lamp (1). In addition, it shows a beneficial point of high utilization efficiency of radiated lights of the lamp (1) as it does not use a light reduction filter. Furthermore, it shows a beneficial point of high luminance uniformity effect as well as high efficiency because luminance uniformity is planned in 3 stages of reflective parts (23) that carry out diffusion reflection, reflective plane (4) that corresponds with transmitting part (24), and diffusion plate (3).

[EFFCTS OF THIS INVENTION]

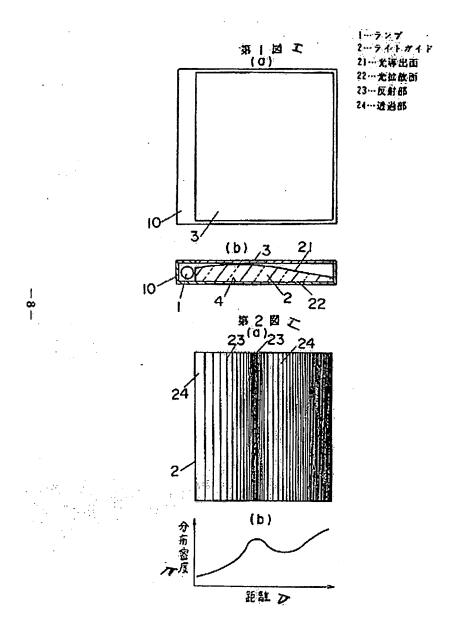
As explained above, this invention is equipped with a lamp that becomes a light source, a light guide that is formed of a transparent material in a plate-form and radiated lights from the lamp are introduced from the plane other than front/back and one plane of front/back is designed to form a light discharging plane, and at the same time, the plane that is opposite side to the light discharging plane serves as a light diffusion plane; and the light discharging plane of the light guide is formed smoothly, and it is set to totally reflect all radiated lights of the lamp that is not reflected at the light diffusion plane; and on the light diffusion plane, multiple numbers of reflective parts that conduct diffusion reflection are formed; and it is set so the distribution density of reflective parts becomes lower as synthesized distribution intensity of the lights direction from the lamp and total reflected lights on the light discharging plane on the light diffusion plane becomes higher; and it is designed that the light discharging plane to totally reflect the lights directly from the lamp, and in addition, when forming reflective parts and transmitting part on the light diffusion plane of the light guide, distribution density of reflective parts is made to be lower as synthesized distribution intensity of the lights directly from the lamp and totally reflected light on the light discharging plane on the light diffusion plane becomes higher, and therefore, it shows a beneficial point that it is possible to set luminance with uniformity on the light emitting plane. In addition, luminance uniformity is arrived with reflection diffusion without using means of light reduction, it shows a beneficial point of high utilization efficiency of the radiated lights of lamp.

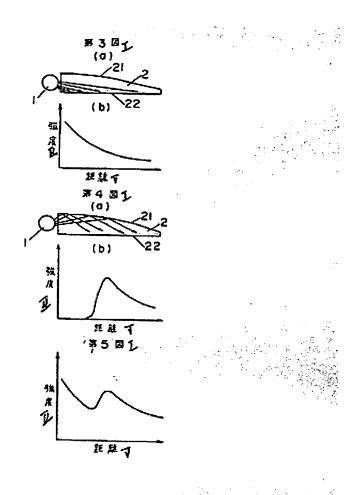
4. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

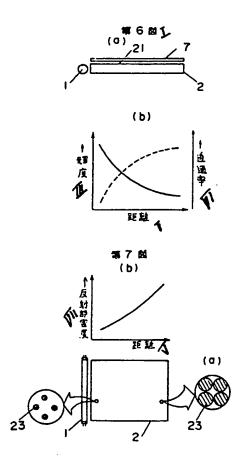
Figures 1 (a), (b) each illustrate plane view and cross-sectional view of the example 1 of this invention respectively; and Figures 2 (a), (b) each illustrate a plane view that shows pattern of reflective parts formed on the light diffusion plane and explanatory view that shows distribution density respectively; and Figure 3 illustrates explanatory view that shows operation of the lights directly from the lamp on the light diffusion plane explained above; and Figures 4 illustrates an explanatory view that shows operation of the lights directly from the lamp on light discharging plane explained above; and Figure 5 illustrates an explanatory view that shows operation of synthesized light intensity on the light diffusion plane of the explained above; and Figures 6 (a), (b) each illustrate schematic structural view and explanatory view of operation of conventional example respectively; and Figures 7 (a), (b) each illustrate schematic structural view and distribution density on reflective parts of other conventional example respectively.

(1) shows a lamp, (2) shows a light guide, (21) shows a light discharging plane, (22) shows a light diffusion plane, (23) shows a reflective part, and (24) shows a transmitting part.

[I: Figure, II: intensity, III: luminance, IV: distribution density, V: distance, VI: transmissivity, VII: density of reflective part,]







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図発明の名称 面状照明器具

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29出 願 昭62(1987)8月13日

⑫発 明 者 村 上 ⑫発 明者 阪

忠 史 敏

大阪府門真市大字門真1048番地 松下電工株式会社内

⑫発 明 者 大 塚

彦 忠 弘

大阪府門真市大字門真1048番地 松下電工株式会社内 大阪府門真市大字門真1048番地 . 松下電工株式会社内

の出 顖 人 松下電工株式会社

大阪府門真市大字門真1048番地

②代 理 人 弁理士 石田 長七

1. 発明の名称

面状照明器具

2. 特許請求の範囲

(1) 光源となるランプと、透明材料により収状 に形成され表裏以外の面からランプの放射光が導 入され表裏の一面が光導出面となるとともに光導 出面の反対側面が光拡散面となったライトガイド とを備え、ライトガイドの光導出面は、滑らかに 形成されてランプの放射光のうち光拡散面で反射 されていない光束のすべてを全反射するように設 定され、光拡散面は、拡散反射を行なう多数の反 射部が形成され、ランプからの直接光と光導出面 での全反射光との光拡散面上での合成分布強度が 高いほど反射部の分布密度が低くなるように改定 されて成ることを特徴とする面状照明器具。

3. 発明の詳細な説明

[技術分野]

本発明は、ライトパネルや液晶表示装置のパッ クライト等に用いられ、発光面で略均一な興度が 要求される面状照明器具に関するものである。

[背景技術]

一般に、この種の面状照明器具では、板状のラ イトガイドを有し、ライトガイドの表裏以外の面 からランプの放射光を導入し、これを表裏の一面 である光導出面から取り出すようにしている。し かしながら、単にランプとライトガイドとを組み 合わせただけでは、ランプの近傍において輝度が もっとも高く、ランプから離れると輝度が急速に 低下するものであるから、光導出面で均一な輝度 を得ることができないという問題が生じる。そこ で、従未よりこの問題への対処法として次の2つ の対策が提案されている。

すなわち、第1の対策としては、第6図(a)に 示すように、光導出面21にフィルタ?を対置す ることが提案されている。このフィルタでは、第 6 図(b)に示すように、ランプ1との距離が近い ほど透過率(破線で示す)が低下するように設定さ れており、輝度(実験で示す)の高い部分ほど透過 単を低下させることにより、全体として均一な坪 皮を得ようとするものである。しかしなから、この対策法では、輝度の高い部分を減光することにより、輝度の均一化を図っているものであるから、ランブ 1 の放射光の利用効率が低いという問題が生じる。

キこで、第2の対策としては、第7図(a)に示すように、ライトかイド2の光導出面21とは反対側の面である光拡放面における拡放反射率を場所によってプロにたものである。すなりた。ランプ1には放放反射率が依反射率が放反射率が放反射率が放反射率が放大きくなるようにしたものである。具体体部23(第7図(a)中斜線がプロから離れるほどのの気があって、反射部23の分にしている。足がであるには、ライトがイトがの異ながありとのの質がある。この構成では、ライトがイド2の板厚の5倍程がライトがイド2の板厚の5倍程がライトがイド2の板厚の5倍程が出て、2の大力により、アフィンの変異がライトがイド2の板厚の5倍程

(実施例)

第1 図に示すように、箱体10内に、光源となるランプ1と、根状のライトがイド2とが納装される。ランプ1としては、直管状盤光ランプが用いられており、ライトかイド2の一側面に対向して配設されている。ライトかイド2は、かラスやアクリル等の透明材料により形成されており、表級の一面(第1 図(b)の上面)が光導出値21、他

皮になると、ランプ 1 の近傍とランプ 1 から輝れた部分とでの反射部 2 3 の密度差が大きくなり、ランプ 1 の近傍の反射部 2 3 の分布密度が非常に小さくなって、輝度むらが生じるという問題が生じ、極端な場合には、輝度の高い部分が是状に出現するようになる。この現象はライトガイド 2 の板厚が小さいほど顕著になるものである。

[発明の目的]

本発明は上述の点に鑑みて為されたものであって、その目的とするところは、発光面の輝度が十分に均一化された面状照明器具を提供することにある。

[発明の開示]

(構成)

本発明に係る面状照明器具は、光波となるランプと、透明材料により板状に形成され表裏以外の面からランプの放射光が導入され表裏の一面が光導出面となるとともに光導出面の反対側面が光拡散面となったライトガイドとを備え、ライトガイドの光導出面は、滑らかに形成されてランプの放

ランプ 1 とライトがイド 2 との位置関係は、ランプ 1 の放射光のうちライトがイド 2 に導入されて光拡散面 2 2 で反射されていない光束がすべて全反射されるように設定されているのであって、

ランプ 1 からの放射光は少なくとも 1 回は光拡散 面 2 2 で反射されない限り、光導出面 2 1 から外 に取り出せないようになっている。

箱体10の一面であって、ライトガイド2の光 専出面21に対向する位置には、拡放透過および 拡放反射を行なう拡放板3が配設されており、一 方、箱体10の内周面であって光拡放面22に対 向する面は反射面4となって光拡放板3・法 配置してもよい。反射面4は、金属面であるで 配置してもよい。反射面4は、金属面があって 利面、もしくは塗装等による拡放反射面であって、 ライトガイド2の光拡放面22のうち透過部24 を透過する光束を反射するようになっている。

以上の構成により、ランプ 1 から放射された光 東は、一部が光導出面 2 1 で全反射されてランプ 1 から離れた部位まで案内されるのである。とこ ろで、ランプ 1 からの放射光について考察すると、 第 3 図(a)に示すように、ランプ 1 から光拡散面 2 2 に直接照射される光束の分布は距離の 2 果に 反比例するから、第 3 図(b)に示すように、単個

準が高まるものである。

以上のようにして、ライトガイド2に形成され た反射部23の分布密度を変えることにより全体 の興度分布を均一化することができるという利点 を有するものである。また、ライトガイド2を拡 放板3と反射面4とで挟むことにより、反射部2 3と透過部24との存在による輝度ならを緩和す るから、輝度の均一化効果が高く、稼型にしても 反射部23のパターンが目立つことがなく、しか もランプ1からの直接光はすべて光導出面で反射 されるようにしているから、ランプ1からの放射 光をランプ1から離れた部位まで到達させること ができるという利点を有するのである。また、波 光フィルタを用いていないので、ランプ1の放射 光の利用効率が高くなるという利点を有する。さ らに、拡散反射を行なう反射部23と、透過部2 1に対応する反射面1と、拡散板3とにより3段 閉で輝度の均一化を図っているから、輝度の均一 化効果が高く、かつ高効率が得られるという利点 を有する。

に減少することになる。また、第4図(a)に示す ように、ランプ1から光導出面21で全反射され て光拡放面22に到達する光束の分布は、第4図 (b)に示すように、ランプ1から所定距離離れた 那位で立ち上がり、 そこから次第に賊少すること になる。したがって、光拡散面22での光の強皮 分布は、弟5図に示すように、次弟に減少して一 且補小となった後、衝大となり、再び減少すると いう傾向を取ることになる。ここで、上述したよ うに、光拡散面22では反射部23の分布密度が ライトガイド2のランプ1個の矯都から他滑部に 向かって、次弟に増加し、衝大、衝小となった後、 再び増加するように設定されているから、この分 布を光拡散面22での光強度と逆比例関係となる ように改定すれば、光導出面21での頻度分布が 略均一になるのである。

さらに、本実施例においては、拡飲板3と反射 面4との存在により、光拡散面22での透過部2 4に対応する部位の光も反射面4で反射させて利 用することができるのであり、一層、光の利用効

[発明の効果]

本発明は上述のように、光波となるランプと、 透明材料により板状に形成され表裏以外の面から ランプの放射光が導入され表裏の一面が光導出面 となるとともに光導出面の反対側面が光拡散面と なったライトガイドとを備え、ライトガイドの光 導出面は、滑らかに形成されてランプの放射光の うち光拡散面で反射されていない光束のすべてを 全反射するように設定され、光拡散面は、拡散反 射を行なう多数の反射部が形成され、ランプから の直接光と光導出面での全反射光との光拡散而上 での合成分布強度が高いほど反射部の分布溶度が 低くなるように設定されて成るものであり、ラン プからの直接光を光導出面では全反射をせるよう にし、かつライトガイドの光拡放面に反射部と透 週部とを形成するにあたり、ランプからの直接光 と光導出面での全反射光との光拡放面上での合成 分布強度が高いほど反射部の分布密度を低くして いるので、発光面での輝度の均一化が行なえると いう利点を存する。また、反射と拡放とにより輝

特開昭64-45002 (4)

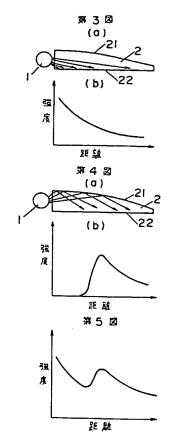
度の均一化を行ない、誠尤手段を用いていないので、ランプの放射光の利用効率が高いという利点 を有するものである。

4. 図面の簡単な説明

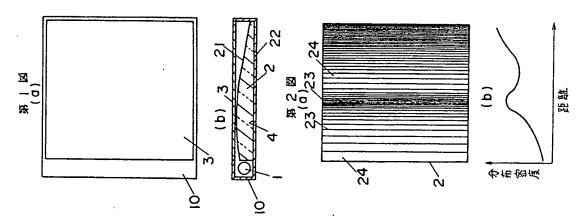
第1図(a)(b)はそれぞれ本発明の一実施例を示す平面図と断面図、第2図(a)(b)はそれぞれ同上の光拡散面に形成された反射部のパターンを示す平面図と分布密度を示す説明図、第3図は同上の光拡散面におけるランブからの直接光を示す動作説明図、第4図は同上の光導出面における合成光強度を示す動作説明図、第6図(a)(b)はそれぞれ是来例を示す機略構成図と助作説明図、第7図(a)(b)はそれぞれを示す機略構成図との射部の分布密度を示す説明図である。

1 はランプ、2 はライトガイド、2 1 は光導出 面、2 2 は光拡散面、2 3 は反射部、2 4 は透過 部である。

代理人 弁理士 石 田 長 七



1…ランプ 2…ライトガイト 21…光導出面 22…光本数面 23…気射部 24…遊過部



特開昭64-45002 (5)

